

**The First
Congregational
Church in
Stoneham**

The Meetinghouse Messenger

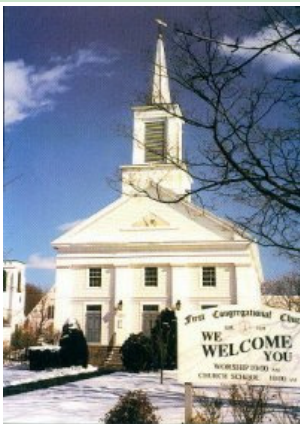
June 2011

**United Church of
Christ**

Pastor's Corner

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Coming Events:

June 5: Annual Meeting

**June 12: Childrens
Sunday & Church Picnic**

My dear friends,

What an amazing program year we have had! Just this past month we celebrated my installation as your 38th pastor with a joyful service on May 1. Then we held the annual rummage sale and earned about \$2100 for the church coffers. Yay! And we completed our stewardship campaign, Generations of Generosity. Many people worked very hard on these things; it's no wonder that everyone is starting to feel the pull of summer with its more leisurely schedule!

But, before you go into summertime mode, please join us for lunch and our Annual Meeting on June 5 after worship. Our church has been meeting this way for almost 300 years; that in itself warrants your presence! It is a privilege of membership in First Church that all of us have a vote in determining the future of our shared ministry. Let's come together to name all the things we do well and explore our growing edges! So I urge you to attend for food and fellowship and thoughtful conversation.

On June 12 the children will lead us in worship as we observe Children's Sunday and then have our all-church cookout. Our children are delightfully talented and the service promises to be beautiful. And I understand that the hamburgers and hotdogs will be pretty good too. :-)

This is a morning not to be missed; *everyone* is invited!

Finally, as long-awaited summer makes its slow approach, if you are at home in July and August, *please join us for worship!* Dress comfortably, settle into a pew, and sing and pray your heart out with us. During summer services the Christian Education Committee will be pleased to offer a one-room schoolhouse for the children where they can enjoy a bible story, activity and snack while you are in worship. More details will follow.

It's been an *amazing* program year. What a gift God had in store for me letting me get to know you all!

Affectionately,

Merrie



The First Congregational Church in Stoneham

One Church St.
Stoneham, MA 02180
781-438-0097
781-438-0238 (fax)

COME WORSHIP WITH US!
Sundays, 10AM

Staff of the Church:
Rev. Meredith Allen, Pastor
Joyce Simpson, Music Director
Sara Thompson, Secretary
John Piskadlo, Sexton
Lorraine Savage, Sunday School Superintendent
Kevin O'Neil, Youth Group Director
Heather Oliver, Treasurer & Messenger Editor

We are on the Web!

www.firstchurchstoneham.org

Or

www.facebook.com

Books & Chocolate

Upcoming events for the Books & Chocolate Group:

June - date TBD - field trip tentatively to the Garden in the Woods and the Wayside Tavern

Missions / Outreach

Volunteers Needed for Hungry Helpers

Volunteers are needed to assist with our church's Community Dinner meal on the second Tuesday of each month. If you can help out, arrive at 5:30 to serve or come a bit later to assist with clearing tables and washing up. For more information, contact Lynn Haddad.

Coffee, Tea, Chocolate Galore

The Missions/Outreach Committee is pleased to once again offer fair trade coffees, teas and chocolates for purchase to support small farmer cooperatives in 19 countries around the world.

Missions obtains the items from Equal Exchange, a fair trade coop located in West Bridgewater, MA. All items are produced using sustainable growing methods and most, if not all, are organic.

The quality of these products is excellent and they are offered at very reasonable prices. Check out the items for sale during coffee hour while enjoying a cup of fair trade coffee.

For more information about Equal Exchange, go to <http://www.equalexchange.coop/ucc>

Travel Toiletries

We continue to collect travel sized toiletries for donation to Rosie's Place in Boston for distribution to their guests.

Unopened items can be left in the church office in the basket marked "Missions Toiletries."





Sunday School News

We are thankful that the Season of Eastertide continues.

During the month of May the children learned about Jesus' journey to the cross: Jesus lives, Jesus opens our eyes, Jesus comes into our midst and Jesus ascends to heaven.

The children have been decorating fish for the drama production that will be presented on Children's Sunday, June 12th. They are excited for all to take part in the service. We will be presenting camperships, scholarships, and recognizing our graduates and our wonderful teachers! The service will be followed by our Annual Church Picnic. outside, inside if it rains. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided. Donations of soda, chips, fruit and side dishes are needed. John DeAmicis will again man our grill! There will be fun games and a moon bounce.

The Christian Education Committee will need a lot of set-up help that day! Here is a breakdown on what you should bring:

Last names that begin with A-M bring a dessert
Last names that begin with N-Z bring a side dish
Please, nothing with Mayonnaise

We have exciting plans for the fall! The curriculum will be lectionary based so that it will go along with what Pastor Merrie is preaching. We are looking for adults to teach Sunday School. Whether you've taught for the past 50 years or have never taught at all, if you love children and love God then you have what it takes to be a teacher! I am on the hunt for folks to help our children learn about God, God's love for us all, and God's mission for us in the world.

Whether you'd like to teach a 4-week unit or would like to be on a list of substitutes, please call the church office or speak to Lorraine at coffee hour. We have a wonderful group of children that could use your help in learning about God. Pastor Merrie and I will be having teacher training the end of August on a Sunday after church. Please consider helping!

God's Blessings,

Lorraine Savage, Sunday School Superintendent



June

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | John Burke | | |
| 2 | George Parsons | | |
| 6 | John Cochrane | | |
| 7 | Benjamin Muise | 24 | Sharon Wade |
| 8 | Kathy Bardell | 27 | Carolyn Barrett |
| 9 | Sarah Clark | 28 | Gerri Cruickshank |
| 10 | Zachary Hodgson | 29 | John Fucci |
| 10 | Marilyn Jackson | | |
| 19 | Edward Sullivan | | |
| 21 | Spencer Little | | |
| 23 | Mikayla Freeman | | |
| 24 | | | |

If you would like to be added to the birthday list, please email heatherwiw@rcn.com

Crafts

Crafts will meet June 7 & 14. Young and old are welcome; Come and join us from 9:30-12:00 in the craft room.



Let's Go Green!

We currently have **78** people out of **219** on the mailing list who h:



to receive their Messenger by email. Let's help the planet and save the church money by increasing that number. If you are willing to receive an e-messenger, please send an email to the Editor heatherwiw@rcn.com or holiver@thecia.net. THANKS

Are you interested in learning to operate the video equipment we use each Sunday to record our worship service? Mark Paolini, who has a degree from Emerson College, would be glad to show you the ropes. Because the equipment belongs to Stoneham TV, you must also take a two-hour course there. Filming worship might serve as community service in school. Speak to Mark or Pastor Merrie about this cool opportunity!

For Annual Meeting, which is this Sunday, June 5th after church, we need volunteers to bring desserts, please let Judy Clark know if you can bring something. The suggested donation for the luncheon is \$3.00 .

First Church is on TV!

Couldn't get to service this week? Loved the sermon so much you want to hear it again? First Church services are rebroadcast all week!

- Comcast users: Channel 9
- Verizon users: Channel 34
- RCN users: Channel 3

- Weekly Schedule:
- Monday 6:00 PM
 - Tuesday 10:00 AM
 - Wednesday 4:00 PM
 - Thursday 10:00 AM
 - Saturday 8:00 AM
 - Sunday 8:00 AM

The schedule and channels are as follows:



First Church Beautification Project is underway!

Some families have already signed up to “adopt” sections of the grounds, but there are still plenty left! Please see Lynn Haddad or Kathy Bardell to sign up to adopt a section. A few “adopted” sections have already been planted, please notice them as you come and go. You can make your section as simple or as elaborate as you like, just as long as you maintain it!

In addition, the church-wide planting day which was scheduled for May 21st has been rescheduled for June 4th from 9-11. Lets hope the weather is better this time!
(The youth group cook-out will take place after the planting)

There are three different ways help "spring into life" our church grounds:

1. **Adopt an area identified on the church grounds and you and your family can plant and maintain this summer. This is a great way to honor or memorialize a family member and brighten up the church grounds.**
2. **Donate plants, seeds or fertilizer to the group between May 15th and May 20th. The Youth Group will be gathering to on June 4th to plant all the flowers and seeds which have been donated at that time. .**
3. **Donate a gift card or monetary amount to the fund during coffee hours the next few weeks. All funds and GC collected will be used to purchase flowers and seeds.**

Any of the three options will add to the beautiful scenery surrounding our church and grounds.



Thank you!

To all my dear friends at First Church,

Thank you for all your prayers and cards during my time at home with my heart problems. Special thanks for Lorraine Savage and Kim McLaughlin for bringing me the altar flowers the day after I got home from the hospital. They were beautiful and brightened my day.

I'm getting stronger each day and am enjoying being back in the office once again, but still have a long way to go. I'm learning to adjust my life style to not do so much running around. Thanks again to everyone—all the prayers were a huge part of what helped my get back on my feet so quickly.

Love, Sara

My dear friends,

I want to thank you for the countless ways you contributed to making Sunday's service of installation so truly joyous! Everyone's planning, practice, and preparation resulted in an afternoon of worship that left all of us with a smile and a full heart – especially me! How good it was to see so many of you in attendance to make our relationship “official”!

The music was spectacular – toe-tappingly joyful. The chimers were awesome, and everyone was impressed by our children. Our guest clergy gave us a lot of funny, thoughtful things to ponder. And the reception was both gorgeous and delicious – real china, pink geraniums and all. :-) Jerry and I are still enjoying the leftovers!

Last but not least, Heather presented me with a silver bracelet on behalf of the church. (Now how did you know I love bracelets?!) This bracelet is simply beautiful, and you will see me wearing it often and with pride. Know that I will cherish it as the symbol not only of a memorable day but, even more, of God's gift for us to share this amazing journey together.

Thanks be to God. And thanks be to you.

Love, Merrie

Update your email address!

Has your email address changed recently? Are you a recently techie convert? We are looking to update our email list. If you have any info to update, please email the info to the church office (or call) so that Sara can update outdated info and add new folks to our email list.

Rummage Sale Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for contributing and helping for another successful Rummage Sale. We made over \$2000. What was left over was distributed to many charities: Books Across America, Mission of Deeds, Rosie's Place, Salvation Army and Seventh Day Adventist Thrift Store. Your hard work and donations helped many families in need as well as the church.

Blessings,

Lorraine Savage and Kim McLaughlin

Stewardship Update

Even though “Stewardship Sunday” has already passed, that doesn't mean you can still send in your pledge! Please remember to do so! It is extremely helpful to the church budgeting process to know how much money to expect during the year; so please fill out a pledge card if you haven't already. To date, we have received 38 pledges, and 20 (yes, twenty) of those pledges are INCREASES from last year!!! Good work everyone! Lets keep it up!

Messenger Deadline

The deadline for the July Messenger is June 19th
Please leave all submissions in the Messenger box in the office or email to holiver@thecia.net

Thanks!



Please do not bring food & drinks into the Sanctuary.

To keep our Sanctuary beautiful, comfortable and focused on worship, please do not bring food or drinks (except bottled water) into the Sanctuary.

Thank You!



Church Picnic & Children's Sunday

Mark your calendars now! Sunday, June 12th is Children's Sunday and the Annual Church Picnic

There will be a wonderful drama presentation, the Sunday School children will be involved in the service, camperships and scholarships will be presented, and then we have our picnic after church with food, fun, a moon bounce and games for the whole family! The church will provide the meats, rolls and drinks (although we'd love a donation to defray those costs) and church members should bring side dishes or desserts. You don't want to miss this fun day! All are welcome, please stop by to celebrate the end of the Sunday School year and the beginning of summer!



Table for Five Thousand

By T. Long & A. Pote

Presented by the First Congregational Church of Stoneham Drama Group

June 12th at 10 AM During Worship

The account of Jesus feeding 5,000 is the only miracle—other than the resurrection—that is reported in all 4 gospels. This play focuses on the narrative as it appears in John.... Where one boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish is the catalyst for everything that follows. We don't know anything about the boy except his willingness to share, but we know the results; an event so startling, members of the crowd wanted to proclaim Jesus as King.

The theme: The most humbling among us—especially children—can do great things with Gods help!

Mother Teresa said " we can do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful".

We offer this small work in the hopes it might communicate that message!

Food Pantry News

Here is our list of "Items of the Week" for the month of June. Please remember to pick up these items when you are grocery shopping. Please do your part to help stock our pantry for those in need in our church community and in Stoneham and the neighboring communities.

May 29 – June 4	Stuffing
June 5 – 11	Pancake Mix/Syrup
June 12 – 18	Olives/Mushrooms
June 19 – 25	Oil
June 26 – July 2	Coffee



We have been fortunate to be able to buy quite a few items for the pantry with coupons at great discounts. If you would like to help the food pantry in this way, please leave your coupons in the church office.

Thank you all for your continued help!

The "Food Pantry Crew" (Lynn Haddad, Lorraine Savage, Sara Thompson, and Kim Savage-McLaughlin)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN STONEHAM STEEPLE FUND

1 CHURCH STREET, STONEHAM, MA 02180

Yes, I would like to donate to the Steeple Fund

Name: _____ Address: _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:
First Congregational Church in Stoneham Steeple Fund

Please make this donation in memory of:

Name: _____

The Steeple Fund Committee will be printing a list of name of those people who have donated to the Steeple Fund. This list will be displayed in Fellowship Hall. If you do not wish to have your name printed on this list, please indicate here:

NO, do not print my name _____

Meet a Member



Q: Full Name:

A: Judith Ann Clark

Q: How long have you been involved at First Church?

A: Bob and I joined the church in 1979

Q: What is your oldest memory of the church?

A: The 300th anniversary celebration took place the year we joined and it was very impressive. Also, at that time there was a large couples group that we became involved in immediately.

Q: What do you spend your days doing?

A: I am semi-retired, but I substitute teach in Reading several days a week.

(Meet a Member is a new feature which will appear in the monthly newsletter. Each month you will get to know a member better...it may be someone you have known for years or someone who has just joined)

Q: What is your favorite part of First Church?

A: My favorite things about First Church besides attending the Sunday services is events that involve food! I like to be in charge of events where I have to plan meals or refreshments.

Q: Tell me something interesting about yourself:

A: I have always been a major volunteer and I guess that started when I volunteered for the Peace Corps straight out of college from 1964-66 and lived in Cameroon, Africa as a teacher. Currently my two volunteer avenues are connected with our church and Parker Tavern, a house museum in Reading. My schedule as a sub allows me the flexibility to pursue activities with these entities.

Q: Anything you'd like to see the church doing that we're not already?

A: I think our church already does many things to serve its members and friends and certainly in the community. I would just like to see us grow in numbers and remain strong in the community.

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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			1 3:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	2	3	4 9-2 Iglesia
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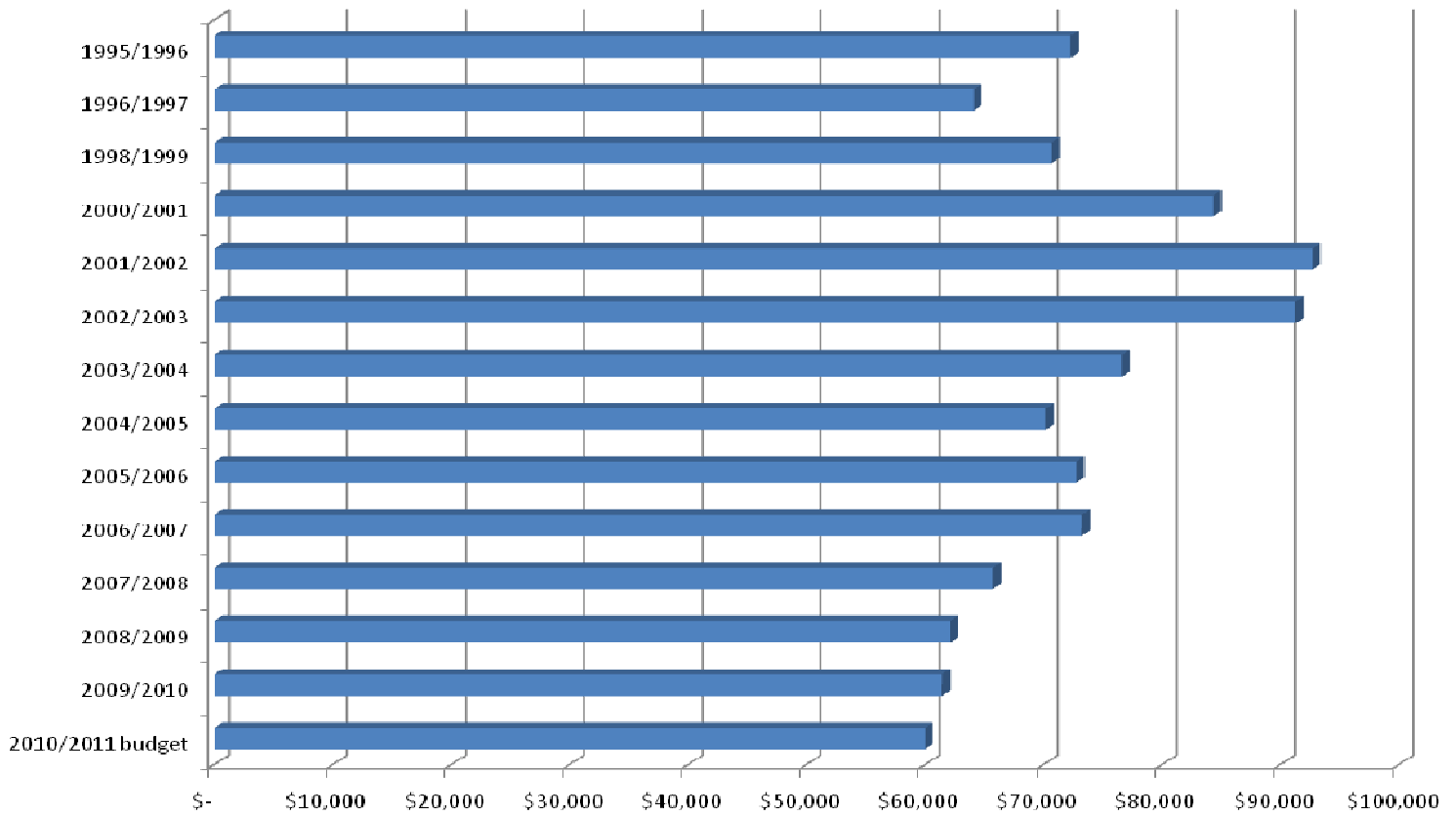
5 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting	6 8-9 AA	7 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm Dinner 7:00 Book Study	8 3:30 Drama 7:30 Iglesia	9	10	11 9-2 Iglesia Drama set-up
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12 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 Picnic	13 7:00 CE 8-9 AA	14 9:30 Crafts 5:45 Comm Dinner 7:00 Diaconate	15 7:30 Iglesia	16	17	18 9-2 Iglesia
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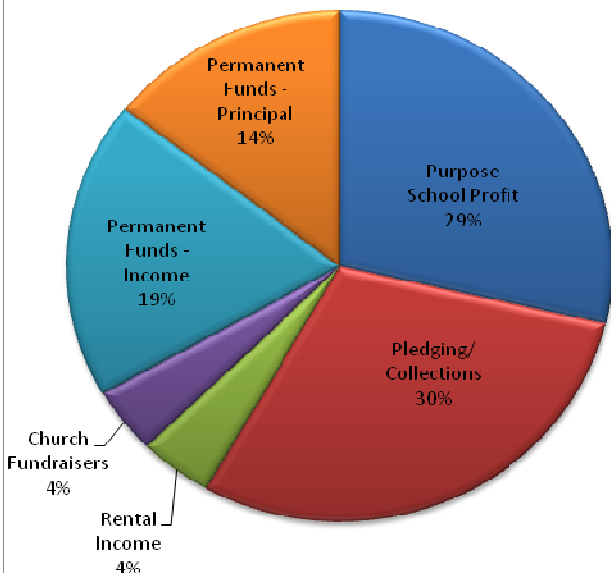
19 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship	20 8-9 AA	21 5:45 Comm Dinner 7:00 Book Study	22 7:30 Iglesia	23	24	25 9-2 Iglesia
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26 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship	27 8-9 AA	28 5:45 Comm Dinner 7:00 Book Study	29 7:30 Iglesia	30		
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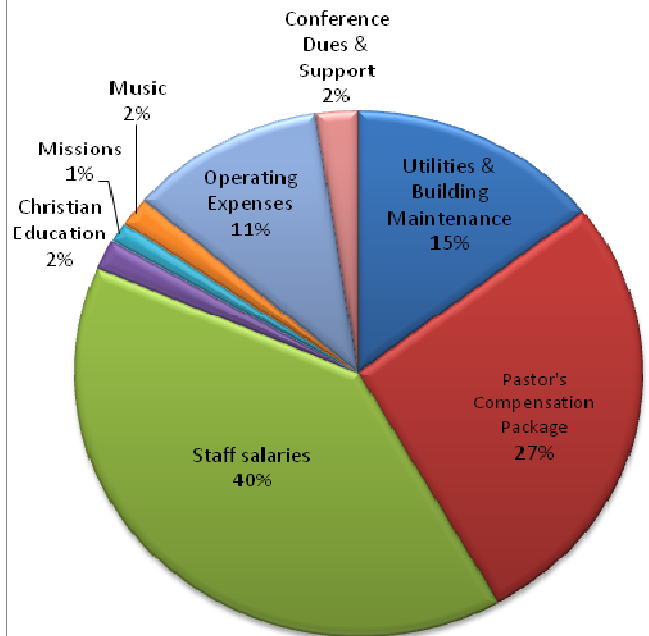
First Church Total Pledges/Giving



Where does our money come from? 2009-2010



Where does our money go? 2009-2010



VBB

OK, Spring is here and it is time to start preparation for VBB. This is a community event where we open our Church and invite our friends and neighbors to come and have a smorgasbord of fun. I will need lots of help to pull this program together, not just August 8 - 12, 2011, but now. Who wants to help present simple crafts to the kids? Who can show how to sing and dance to the music? Who can present science projects? Who can play games? Who can help with sharing this great adventure to an excited group of children from ages 2 to 102? Who wants to be a kid themselves and just have fun learning about God, Jesus and the stories that we tell and retell while learning? Who is going to come to our Cooking Party? The program is titled, Shake It Up Cafe: Where Kids Carry Out God's Recipe. I am looking for willing volunteers to give their time, talents, and share their enthusiasm for fun. Everything will center around food and Jesus. Since we are a Church that revolves around food related activities this should be another belly full learning experience. Sara Thompson has agreed to do our stories this year again and one of the teens has asked to be our raccoon puppet, Scraps. But there are plenty of ingredients that need to come together and make this work. Can you be one of the ingredients to this recipe we refer to as VBB?? Contact Donna Wall with questions, or concerns.

List of wanted items for VBB:

plastic frosting container with cover

red checkered plastic table clothes

Yellow Felt squares or yardage

yellow ribbon 1/4-1/2 inch wide

floral of jewelry wire

small food pictures cut from magazines, no larger than 2x2inches



Looking to borrow kitchen equipment:(maybe)

shelves

bar stools

large mixer

this is not complete list.... my brain is still cooking ideas and possibilities

I will update the list for next month's *Messenger*. Keep your eye open for more items.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References June 2011 (Year A)

Wed., June 1
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thurs., June 2
Ascension Day
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., June 3
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

Sat., June 4
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Sun., June 5
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Mon., June 6
Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tues., June 7
Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wed., June 8
Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36

Thurs., June 9
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:1-9a
Acts 2:1-11

Fri., June 10
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:16-25
Romans 8:14-17

Sat., June 11
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 20:1-21
Matthew 5:1-12

Sun., June 12
Pentecost Sunday
Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
or Acts 2:1-21
John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

Mon., June 13
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
Romans 8:18-24

Tues., June 14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29
Romans 8:26-27

Wed., June 15
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Numbers 11:24-30
John 7:37-39

Thurs., June 16
Psalm 8
Job 38:1-11
2 Timothy 1:8-12a

Fri., June 17
Psalm 8
Job 38:12-21
2 Timothy 1:12b-14

Sat., June 18
Psalm 8
Job 38:22-38
John 14:15-17

Sun., June 19
Trinity Sunday
Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Mon., June 20
Psalm 29
Job 38:39-39:12
1 Corinthians 12:1-3

Tues., June 21
Psalm 29
Job 39:13-25
1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Wed., June 22
Psalm 29
Job 39:26-40:5
John 14:25-26

Thurs., June 23
Psalm 13
Micah 7:18-20
Galatians 5:2-6

Fri., June 24
Psalm 13
2 Chronicles 20:5-12
Galatians 5:7-12

Sat., June 25
Psalm 13
Genesis 26:23-25
Luke 17:1-4

Sun., June 26
Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Mon., June 27
Psalm 47
Genesis 22:15-18
1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Tues., June 28
Psalm 47
1 Kings 18:36-39
1 John 4:1-6

Wed., June 29
Psalm 47
Isaiah 51:1-3
Matthew 11:20-24

Thurs., June 30
Psalm 45:10-17
Genesis 25:19-27
Romans 7:1-6



Note: During the period of Ordinary Time, which comes after Trinity Sunday, the Revised Common Lectionary provides two parallel tracks: the complementary and the semicontinuous. The semicontinuous, which allows for a more sequential reading through the major themes of certain biblical books, is offered here. The other sequence can be found at commontexts.org

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The Meetinghouse Messenger — June 2011

The First Congregational Church

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Staff of the Church

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Sara Thompson, Church Secretary

John Piskadlo, Sexton

Joyce Simpson, Music Director

Heather Oliver, Messenger Editor & Treasurer

Lorraine Savage, Sunday School Superintendent

Kevin O'Neil, Youth Group Director